

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 CIEP-02 INT-08 COME-00 TRSE-00

SCEM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 RSR-01 /106 W

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R 070930Z AUG 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3547

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2353

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EG

SUBJECT: CALL ON MINISTER OF PETROLEUM

1. ON AUGUST 6 I CALLED ON MINISTER OF PETROLEUM
AHMED EZZ EL DIN HILAL. DURING OUR CONVERSATION HE MADE
FOLLOWING POINTS:

2. GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT IS IMPOSING NO POLITICAL
RESTRAINTS ON PARTICIPATION OF US OIL COMPANIES IN
EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION ACTIVITIES IN EGYPT. IN
FACT, ACCORDING TO HILAL, PRESIDENT SADAT SEEMED IM-
PRESSED BY HILAL'S ARGUMENTS THAT IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY
ADVANTAGEOUS TO INVOLVE LARGE AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES
COMMERCIALY IN EGYPT, SINCE THESE COMPANIES HAVE SOME
INFLUENCE IN THE UNITED STATES POLITICAL PROCESS AND
COULD BE EXPECTED TO PROMOTE MORE EQUITABLE TREATMENT
FOR THE ARAB COUNTRIES.

3. EXXON AND MOBIL WERE GRANTED THE OFFSHORE OIL CON-
CESSIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN PRIMARILY BECAUSE THEY
WERE TECHNICALLY THE BEST QUALIFIED COMPANIES IN THE
WORLD TO CARRY OUT THIS TYPE OF DRILLING. GOE NOW
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HOPES TO INVOLVE AS MANY FOREIGN COMPANIES AS POSSIBLE IN

OIL EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN THE HOPE OF INCREASING EGYPT'S PETROLEUM PRODUCTION TO 50 MILLION TONS PER YEAR BY 1980. SADAT HAS GIVEN HILAL A FREE HAND TO CONTRACT WITH ANY FOREIGN COMPANIES IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS TARGET.

4. COMMENT: HILAL IS AN ENERGETIC AND AGGRESSIVE ADMINISTRATOR WHO HAS HAD A LONG CAREER IN THE OIL BUSINESS. THANKS TO HIS TECHNICAL BACKGROUND AND HIS OPEN AND FRIENDLY MANNER, HE GETS ALONG WELL WITH AMERICAN OIL MEN AND APPEARS TO BE ANXIOUS TO INCREASE THE ROLE OF AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES IN EGYPT.
WILEY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: ENRG, EG, EXXON CHEMICAL CORP, MOBIL OIL CORP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005